(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Keeping in view the small farm holdings, a good number of manual, animal drawn and power tiller operated farm equipment for land preparation, sowing, spraying, harvesting and threshing have been developed in the country. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is operating two All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs), namely, AICRP on Utilization of Animal Energy (UAE) having 7 centres and AICRP on Farm Implements and Machinery (FIM) having 23 centres located in different State Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes to develop location specific farm tools and equipment to meet the needs of the small, medium and large farmers in the country.

Encouragement for organic farming

†17. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme to announce minimum support price of various cereals, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables and fruits to encourage organic farming, is under Government's consideration, so that the farmers could get fair price for their produce;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) There is no scheme under Government's consideration to announce minimum support price of organically produced cereals, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables and fruits.

(c) The Government is already promoting organic farming and the growth in demand for organic produce is substantial.

Impurity of milk

†18. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the scientists of National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) milk produced by 30 to 37 per cent cattles is impure and causes spread of diseases;

(b) whether according to the scientists of NDRI the reason behind it is lack of awareness amongst cattlemen;

(c) whether Government is planning to create awareness among cattlemen; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. NDRI scientists was misquoted in a newspaper against which the Institute issued necessary clarification. However, to create awareness amongst cattlemen, NDRI regularly conducts training for dairy farmers on different facets of clean milk production. The Department of Animal

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries through the centrally sponsored scheme "Strengthening infrastructure for quality and clean milk production" is also training and strengthening the infrastructure to create mass awareness about importance of clean milk production.

Purchasing and marketing of organic products

†19. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for purchasing and marketing of organic farm products to encourage organic farming is under Government's consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) There is no proposal under Government's consideration for purchasing and marketing of organic farm products as the Government is already promoting organic farming and the demand for organic produce is growing substantially.

Agriculture research products

†20. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work is being carried out on various research projects in agricultural research institutes and in other research institutes of public sector in the country;

(b) if so, foodgrain-wise number of these projects;

(c) by when these projects are likely to be completed indicating the time since when the same were started; and

(d) the details of the average annual expenditure made on these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Seven Centrally Sponsored All India Coordinated Research Projects, one each in Wheat and Barley, Rice, Sorghum, Maize, Pearl Millet, Small Millet and four in Pulses (Chickpea, Pigeon Pea, MULLARP, and Arid Legumes) are currently in operation. In addition 19 projects on cereals and pulses and three other projects on value chain enrichment and popularization of potential foodgrains are being funded under NAIP which are in operation in different State Agricultural Universities and other public Research Institutes.

(c) Project-wise date of start of All India Coordinated Research Projects on foodgrains is as follows:-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.